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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: ) PCT BRANCH - BOX PCT  
 Hidetoshi UEMURA et al ) IA Appln. No. PCT/JP99/06473  
 Appln. No.: 09/856,319 )  
 Filed: May 21, 2001 ) Washington, D.C.  
 For: NOVEL SERINE PROTEASE... ) July 31, 2001

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application and before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached.

3. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

4. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

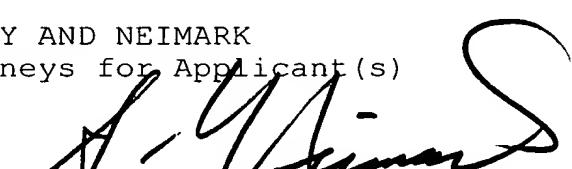
*A copy of the International Search Report is attached.*

5. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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